

Final script from "Adult Immunization Update" satellite broadcast, June 26, 2003.

Adult Immunization Schedule overview segment.

Many vaccines are recommended for adults. Some of these vaccines, such as tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and influenza vaccine, are recommended for many or all adults. Some vaccines are recommended only for adults with certain underlying medical conditions, or those whose occupation or lifestyle place them at increased risk for exposure. Examples of these vaccines are pneumococcal polysaccharide, hepatitis B, and MMR. Adults who travel outside the United States may need specific vaccines such as typhoid and yellow fever.

Until recently, keeping current on vaccine recommendations for adults was a challenge. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP, didn't publish an adult vaccination schedule, and the routine childhood schedule only included persons through 18 years of age. Keeping up to date with adult immunization recommendations recently became a lot easier. In October 2002, ACIP published for the first time a comprehensive vaccination schedule for adults.

The Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule is based on published recommendations of ACIP, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The first page of the schedule presents a summary of vaccine recommendations in a format similar to the childhood and adolescent schedule. Vaccines are listed in horizontal rows, and three age groups are indicated in columns. Vaccine indications are color coded. Those shown in yellow are recommended for everyone in the respective age group. Vaccines that should be administered if they were not administered in childhood are indicated in green crosshatch. Vaccines recommended if the person has a specific medical or exposure indication are coded in red crosshatch.

The second page of the schedule provides guidance for vaccination of adults with certain medical conditions, regardless of age. The conditions are listed in rows, and include pregnancy, chronic illnesses such as diabetes,

heart and lung disease, immunodeficiency, renal failure, asplenia and HIV infection. The vaccines are listed in columns. Like the first page, vaccines are color coded to indicate which vaccines are indicated or contraindicated.

As with all ACIP vaccination schedules, there are footnotes. These footnotes provide clarification for the recommendations on the grids. We strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with the footnotes as well as the recommendations on the grids.

The current schedule is for 2002-2003. A revised schedule for 2003- 2004 is now being prepared. Publication is anticipated the second week of October 2003, to coincide with National Adult Immunization Awareness week. All clinicians who vaccinate adults should have a copy of this schedule in the office. If you don't have a copy, you can get one from the National Immunization Program website. If you don't have internet access we would be happy to mail you a copy. We will give you our contact information at the end of this program.